

Subject: 1856 "flying eagle" U.S. cents

Speer, Harold

1920

[Asbury Park, NJ]

METROPOLITAN HOTEL,  
ASBURY PARK, N. J.

NEW OWNERSHIP,  
S. A. REEVES.

NEW MANAGEMENT,  
T. L. HARRISON.

June 17./20.

Neomamitic Society

I have several 1856 pennies  
with the flying eagle, in fine  
Condition. Please send me the  
facts regarding them.

How many were coined, placed in  
circulation, if any were recalled by  
the government, and if so why.

The value in fine condition (etc.).

Sincerely yours.

Harold Speer.

Post. Office.

Len. Del.

Asbury Park.

N. J.

P.S. Was there  
more than one  
<sup>ever made</sup>  
issue of them,  
and from what  
mint.



June 23rd, 1920

Mr. Harold Speer  
General Delivery  
Asbury Park, N.J.

My dear Sir:

I have your letter of June 19th in regard to 1856 cents of the flying eagle design. The cents of that year were not a regular issue but merely patterns made experimentally at the Philadelphia Mint. The regular issue began the following year in 1857.

Of the pieces dated 1856, there are twelve varieties, of which three are in copper, two in bronze, two in pure nickel and five in copper-nickel. All but one of these varieties are extremely rare, only two or three pieces of each having been struck experimentally. There is one variety, however, of which five hundred to a thousand specimens are in existence which has the flying eagle, inscription and date on the obverse. The reverse, a tobacco wreath enclosing the words 'One cent'. It was this design that was finally adopted for the regular coinage of these pieces in 1857 and 1858. This piece is struck in copper nickel and was the regular piece in the succeeding years. As a matter of fact, the copper is not noticeable in the piece and they have the general appearance of being entirely nickel.

Pieces of this variety in really fine condition bring \$6.00 to \$8.00 at auction. The other varieties are worth more, though the highest price at which I have ever known them to be sold is about \$40.00. None of the pieces were regularly issued as I have said, and, therefore, none of them were ever recalled, with the exception of the "Trade Dollars".

Very truly yours,

Assistant to Curator

W/E  
Enc.